

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3469

INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY NASSAU

AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EWWT, DR

SUBJECT: SHIPPING: PROPOSED LATIN AMERICAN-CARIBBEAN SHIPPING
VENTURE

REF: A) SANTO DOMINGO 1656

B) MEXICO 3395

1. IN REFTEL EMBASSY REPORTED STATEMENT OF SECRETARY OF FINANCE
CARLOS SELIMAN, CHAIRMAN OF GODR COMMISSION ON SHIPPING, TO THE
EFFECT THAT GODR WOULD NOT PARTICIPATE IN PROPOSED LATIN AMERICAN-
CARIBBEAN SHIPPING VENTURE, BUT WOULD HAVE OBSERVER AT UPCOMING
SAN JOSE MEETING. ECONOMIC COUNSELOR HAS JUST SPOKEN WITH ING.

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FERNANDO PERICHE VIDAL, DIRECTOR OF THE GODR'S CENTER FOR EXPORT

PROMOTION WHO REPRESENTED GODR AT PREPARATORY MEETING IN MEXICO CITY. PERICHE INDICATED THAT, WHILE IT IS TRUE THAT SELIMAN IS OPPOSED TO GODR PARTICIPATION IN PROPOSED VENTURE, PERICHE UNDERSTOOD NO DECISION HAD BEEN MADE AGAINST PARTICIPATION AND THAT, CONSEQUENTLY, HE WAS PROCEEDING ON ASSUMPTION THAT GODR MIGHT PARTICIPATE.

2. PERICHE ATTEMPTED TO PUT OPTIMISTIC INTERPRETATION ON OUTCOME OF MEETING. WHILE SOME DELEGATES FELT PROJECT WAS PERHAPS MOVING TOO QUICKLY, HE SAID, HE NEVERTHELESS BELIEVED THAT ENOUGH COUNTRIES (QUOTE PERHAPS EIGHT OR TEN UNQUOTE) FAVORED PROPOSAL FOR THE NAVIERA MULTINACIONAL DE CARIBE (NAMUCAR) TO BE LAUNCHED AT SAN JOSE NEXTNOHNTH. PERICHE SAID PROPOSAL IS NOT IN ANY WAY DIRECTED AGAINST US AND THAT EFFORTS WOULD BE MADE TO ESTABLISH SHIPPING ROUTES WHERE NONE CURRENTLY EXISTED.

3. COMMENT: SELIMAN IS AN OLDER GODR OFFICIAL WHO BELIEVES THAT DOMINICAN GOVERNMENT IS TOO MUCH INVOLVED IN STATE-OWNED ENTERPRISES AS A RESULT OF THE LEGACY FROM THE TRUJILLO ERA. PERICHE, ON THE OTHER HAND, IS A BRIGHT, YOUNG ECONOMIC NATIONALIST. BOTH APPEAR TO BE SINCERE IN REPORTING DIAMETRICALLY-OPPOSED ACCOUNTS OF GODR POSITION, BUT SINCE PERICHE ATTENDED THE MEXICO CITY MEETING, EMBASSY CAN ONLY CONCLUDE THAT, AT LEAST AT THAT MEETING, HE CONSIDERED HIMSELF TO BE MORE THAN AN OBSERVER. IT MAY BE THAT PRESIENT BALAGUER HAS AS YET MADE NO FINAL DECISION ON WHETHER GODR WILL PARTICIPATE IN NAMUCAR.
HURWITCH

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